

“If You choose Me as Your Leader, then You must obey Me”

Mus'ab bin Ahmad bin Mus'ab said that Abu Muhammad Al-Mirwazi passed through Baghdad, desiring to go to Makkah. I wanted to accompany him, and so I went to him and asked permission to join him in his journey, but he refused. Two years later, he came again, and again I went to him, greeted him, and asked permission to go with him. He said, "I stipulate one condition: that one of us is leader, and that the other one must not oppose him in his decisions." I said, "You are the leader." He said, "No, you be the leader." I said, "You are older and more worthy." He said, "Then do not disobey me." I said, "Okay." We started our journey, and whenever the time for a meal arrived, he would prefer me to himself, which I didn't like, but whenever I voiced my disagreement, he said, "Did I not stipulate that you should not oppose me?" That was our way, and I ended up regretting my keeping company with him because he would inflict much harm upon himself by taking care of me and by choosing me over himself at all times.

On some days during the journey, the rain came down heavily; whenever that was the case he would make me sit down and cover me with a cloth in his hand, keeping me dry, but remaining wet himself. It reached the point that I wished that I had never gone out with him in the

first place, and I could not stand to see him continue to inflict pain on himself. This is how he was in all matters until we reached Makkah – may Allāh have mercy on him.

How to make Amends after a Domestic Dispute

Sahl bin Sa'd As-Sa'idi related that the Prophet ﷺ went to the house of Fatimah ؓ, but he didn't find 'Ali. He asked, "Where is your cousin (who was also her husband)?" She said, "There occurred between me and him something, and he was angry with me and went out." Allāh's Messenger ﷺ said to someone, "Find out where he is." The man said, "He is sitting down in the mosque." The Prophet ﷺ went there and saw that he was lying down; his robe was falling from his side, and there was some dust on him. The Prophet ﷺ began to say, "Stand, O Abu Turab; stand, O Abu Turab." Sahl said, "He later on had no name that was more beloved to him than that name."

When he was angry with his wife and went outside, it was an opportunity for 'Ali to calm his anger, which could otherwise easily have gotten out of control. Contemplate the wisdom of the Prophet ﷺ; he went to 'Ali in the mosque and playfully called him Abu Turab (the father of dust – because he was covered with dust). He was making him feel better without asking for the details or the cause behind the difference of opinion.

Fatimah did the same, for she did not tell her father the details of the fight between her and her husband, 'Ali; rather, she only said, "There occurred between me and him something, he became angry with me and went outside." There is indeed an important lesson to be learned here by all husbands and wives, as well as by their parents.

Hasan Basri

He advised some of his students admonishing them about avoiding the state of being proud. He said:

- 1) Do not deceive yourself into becoming too proud because you are in a good or righteous environment, for there is no place that is better than Paradise, and our father, Adam ﷺ, experienced there what is known to all.
- 2) Do not become proud merely because you worship often, for consider what happened to *Iblis* (Satan) after he spent a great deal of time worshipping.
- 3) Do not think yourself great because you have met with righteous people, for there is no man more righteous than the Prophet ﷺ, yet the disbelievers and hypocrites did not benefit by simply knowing him.

Generosity, Friendship, and Good Companionship

When the time for *Hajj* would come, Ibn Mubarak would gather his friends from Marw, and they would say, "We will accompany you." He would say, "Bring your expense money." He would take expense money from them for the trip and place that money in a box, which he would then lock away. He would take them to Baghdad and continue to spend on them, always feeding them the best of food and the best of sweets. And then, wearing the best of clothing, they would leave Baghdad until they would reach the city of the Messenger. He would say to each one of them, "Did not your family ask you to buy for them some of the merchandise of Al-Madinah?" When they reached Makkah, he would say to each one of them after the *Hajj* was over, "Did not your family ask you to buy for them from the merchandise of Makkah?" And he would buy for them whatever they wanted. He would leave Makkah and he would continue to spend on them until they returned home. Then the doors of their homes would be polished, and after three days passed, he would hold for them a banquet, for which he prepared special clothes for each one of them. After eating and enjoying themselves, he would call for the box of money. He would open it, and give to each man from them his bag of spending money, upon which was written his name, and each person would find that nothing was missing from what they originally put in those bags.